

## **REMARKS**

### **A. Status of the Claims**

Claims 34-84 were pending at the time of the Restriction Requirement. Claims 81-84 have been canceled as being directed to non-elected inventions. Claims 36-38, 41, 43-44, 46-47, 49-53, 55-57, 70, 74, and 77-80 have been canceled to reduce the total number of claims to 25. Therefore, Applicant believes that it is not required to submit an Examination Support Document in view of new U.S. Patent Office Rule 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(b). Claims 34-35, 39-40, 42, 45, 48, 54, 58-69, 71-73, and 75-76 are now pending.

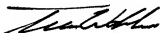
### **B. Response to the Restriction Requirement and Species Election**

In response to the restriction requirement that the examiner imposed, Applicant elects the Group I invention (*i.e.*, current claims 34-35, 39-40, 42, 45, 48, 54, 58-69, 71-73, and 75-76) without traverse.

In response to the species election recited in item 4(1) of the Restriction Requirement to elect a combination of two or more epitopes, Applicant elects peptides 84, 89, and 1426 (*i.e.* SEQ ID NOs: 60, 17, 63). Current claims 34-35, 39-40, 42, 45, 48, 54, 58-69, 71-73, and 75-76 read on the elected species. In response to the species election recited in item 4(2) of the Restriction Requirement to elect one of items (a) – (f), Applicant elects item (b). It is not clear if the selection of item (b) is sufficient or if a specific ODN sequence needs to be specified. In the event that a specific ODN sequence is required, then Applicant elects oligo-d(IC)<sub>13</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 68). Current claims 34-35, 39-40, 42, 45, 48, 54, 58-69, 71-73, and 75-76 read on the elected species.

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Applicant's representative at (512) 536-5654.

Respectfully submitted,



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